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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**(Case No. 95-1408-UUU)**

In the Application of:	)	
	)	
Sheppard et al.	)	Before the Examiner:
	)	Do, Pensee T.
Serial No. 10/726,337	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 1641
Filed: December 2, 2003	)	
	)	
For: An Affinity Binding-based System	)	
For Detecting Particulates in a Fluid	)	

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 5, 2004, please enter the following amendments and consider the accompanying remarks.

**Status of the claims**

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 24-26 and 28 are acknowledged by the Examiner to be patentable, if rewritten as independent claims having all the limitations of the underlying base claims. The bases for rejection of claims 1-23 and 27 have been overcome by amendment.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121, amendments to the claims are set forth on following pages 2-8, and Applicants' remarks set forth on following pages 9-11.